To the Soc of Enquiry Pittsburgh Dec 27th 1842.

Dear Brethren

It seems but yesterday since we met with you in the place where you are now assembled and where we mingled our prayers and praises together before the throne of Him, who liveth for ever. We shall never forget the first and memorable evening that we met with you. It was the one on which brothers Sawyer and Lowerie stood before us for the last time, ere they left their native land to go far away to the Gentiles. The thoughts and feelings of that solemn hour have not faded from our memory; although spring and summer and autumn all come in their beauty and faded away— yet the rememberance of their fare well words is still green and fresh as the early buds of spring.— Many fervent petions went up from many, many hearts who were *then* with you, for the safety of these dear brethren. God has heard those prayers. Sawyer still lives in the land, where the arrows of death fly thickly around him and where his brethren have been cut down one after anothain rapid succession. God has put his shield over him. in answer to prayers of those who trust in the Lord at all times. But that shield will be over him, no longer, than the time, that the effectual fervent prayer prevails, with the hand that holds the shield.— When the hands of Moses were down, Amalek prevailed: and it was only while the hands of Moses were held up, the hosts of Isreal prevailed— —

So it is now: unless the church at home does for her Missionaries what Aaron and Hur did for Moses. Amalek will prevail. You dear brethren are a chosen band and precious in the eyes of the Lord, if you are what your Christian profession declares you to be, born of God and wholly consecrated to the service of your once crucified, but now glorified and ever interceeding Redeemer ___ You now enjoy great privileges and advantages and greater than you can imagine until you are deprived of them by being called out in the world where you will not always be able to retire to your closet and put on your armour and then go out and meet the enimy.

Do you enquire how I would spend my time if I could come back and once more sit on the seats with you, and listen to the counsels and instructions of those whose names are love whose praise is in all the Churches? I would try to do three things better than I did. I would try to take better care of my bodily health by regular and systematic exercise and relaxation- so that the body might be vigorous and active and then mind would be in a like condition. I would read the Bible more. not as I would if I was to pass a critical examination in Latin Greek or Hebrew: but I would read on my knees in my closet with the prayer of the Psalmist on my lips. Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous thing out of thy Law. There are two methods of reading the Word of God. the Critical and the Devotional. They are both highly important: but if we are not mistaken in our opinion, the former is in almost all Theological Seminaries and in many pastors studies more in practice than the latter. Now our own limited experience is this. Mere critical, philological and philosophical study and reading of the Scriptures chills and deadens the flame of Divine grace and love in the soul. if not accompanied by a humble and constant dependance on the Holy Spirit to guide our min into all truth. Then it is plain that when we read the pages of that blessed Book, critically we ought to do it in meekness. submitti our will to the teachings of the Spirit of Infinite wisdom—

The third thing I would try to do better if could come and stay another year is this. I would pray more in secret and with my brethren. It was my privilege to meet for many days immediately after dinner with one who is now in this room, to ask the blessing of the Lord upon us and our brethren and to guide us and send us into that field where our talents and qualifications would be most usefully employed in promoting his glory in the salvation of perishing souls. Those prayers were heard and by the grace and mercy of God I am to day in this great and important field ——

If I had the wings of a dove I would come into your midst Dear Brethren and tell you how good and gracious the Lord has been to me the past season. Oh let me exhort you one and all to dedicate your selves to the Service of the Lord. Give him all your powers of Mind. Soul and body — all your acquisitions of Science and Literature — all your substance and influence. Let it be again and again consecrated to him and then live as if this world was not your home, as those that must soon give in an account of their Stewardship. I passed through Princeton on the 21st of June and arrived at the Western point of my field Sat June 25th. Sunday morning I went to the bank of the Monongahela where the Steam Boats lie and counted to the number of 42. ranged side by side for nearly half a mile. Hundreds of persons of all ages were strolling and standing along the river Street. The Boats were taking on passengers and freight. Carts, and carriages were coming and returning and as I walked along and saw that there the fear of God and the Laws of Man had no power on this mass my heart sighed and I returned with deep sadness and depression of Spirit to my room and cast my soul on the Lord. He comforted me and soon I began my work. The extent of my field is 103 miles and It extends to the Western base of the Allegheny mountains and terminates at Johnstown on the East and Pittsburgh on the West — Five Denominations unite in support of the Mission. The means employed have been kind and serious conversation Reading and explaining the Bible

Preaching and giving exhortations on board of the freight Boats and Packets - Distributing English and German Tracts to multitudes of European Germans who are pouring in great numbers to the more distant parts of this great Valley of the West. I have preached in all the towns and villages on the borders of the Canal for 103 Miles. and made many statements of the condition and wants of this field. I have made a number of trips up and down the whole length and breadth of the field I have met with some Atheists & Deists - Many Mormons and other classes of Errorists - I have not met with only: one case of unkind and uncivil treatment from the mouths of some of the roughest and most degraded and reckless of the men who sail on the canal and river - God has been my preserver and praised be his name for it - Brother Wabber was here at the Convention and he is the only Princetonian I have seen to speak of the last Senior Class - Brethren pray for us. for we pray for you Give my best respects to our beloved Professors and the brethren -

Peace be with you all. M. T. Merwin

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Society Of Enquiry

Princeton. New Jersey

To the care of Charles. E. Ford.. Theo: Seminary